

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 22, line 13, with the following redlined paragraph:

Although specific embodiments, and examples for, the invention are described herein for illustrative purposes, various equivalent modifications can be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention, as will be recognized by those skilled in the relevant art. The teachings provided herein of the invention can be applied to other fuel cell systems, not necessarily the PEM ~~PME~~-fuel cell system described above.